

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CU-04 EB-11

TRSE-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 NEA-10 DRC-01

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R 171804Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9332

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: FRG/GDR NEGOTIATIONS: NO MOVEMENT

AT DECEMBER 13 MEETING

REF: BONN 17312

1. SUMMARY: FRG NEGOTIATOR GAUS MET WITH EAST GERMAN COUNTERPART NIER IN EAST BERLIN DECEMBER 13 FOR THE SECOND IN THEIR ROUND OF TALKS AIMED AT PAVING THE WAY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS IN BONN AND EAST BERLIN RESPECTIVELY. ACCORDING TO CHANCELLERY SOURCE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS, GDR SHOWED NO SIGNS OF READINESS TO MOVE AWAY FROM ITS PREVIOUS HARD LINE. NEXT ROUND OF TALKS SCHEDULED FOR BONN JANUARY 14 AND 15, AT WHICH TIME NEGOTIATION OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT WILL ALSO BE CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

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2. CHANCELLERY SOURCE SAID THE FOUR-HOUR TALKS IN

EAST BERLIN COMPRISED 1 1/2 HOUR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FULL DELEGATIONS, AND A 2 1/2 HOUR PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN GAUS AND NIER. IN THE PRIVATE SESSION, GAUS BEGAN BY REGISTERING STRONG FRG COMPLAINTS ABOUT PROBLEMS CREATED BY GDR IN A WHOLE RANGE OF PRACTICAL AREAS. HE REGISTERED PARTICULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT EAST GERMAN MEASURE ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN VISITORS TO THE GDR. NIER REPORTEDLY TOOK A VERY FIRM STAND IN RESPONDING TO THESE COMPLAINTS, AND IN EFFECT REJECTED THEM OUT OF HAND.

3. DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS. NIER REPORTEDLY STUCK TO THE GDR'S PREVIOUS POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO METHOD OF ACCREDITATION, NOMENCLATURE, POINT OF CONTACT IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND BASIS FOR THE MISSIONS' FUNCTIONING. THE DISCUSSION HAS NARROWED DOWN ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE TO THE LATTER POINT, AND INVOLVES THE ISSUE OF THE APPLICATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. THE GDR WANTS IT APPLIED AS SUCH, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR IS A COMPLETELY NORMAL DIPLOMATIC ONE. THE WEST GERMAN SIDE WANTS THE CONVENTION APPLIED BY ANALOGY, THEREBY PROTECTING ITS POSITION THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES DIFFERS FROM THAT BETWEEN THE FRG AND OTHER STATES.

4. IN THE PRIVATE MEETING, NIER REPORTEDLY INDICATED SOME WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS LANGUAGE TO COVER THE VIENNA CONVENTION ISSUE, ALTHOUGH THE FORMULATION HE PRESENTED WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. GAUS NONETHELESS FELT THAT THIS STEP MIGHT REFLECT SOME SLIGHT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE GDR SIDE. OUR SOURCE WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL, NOTING THAT THERE WERE CERTAINLY NO SIGNS OF ANY GIVE ON THE GDR SIDE IN THE PLENARY

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SESSION. HE THEREFORE THOUGHT GAUS MIGHT BE TAKING A SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW THAN THE SITUATION WARRANTED.

5. THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN DELEGATIONS IS SET FOR JANUARY 14 AND 15 IN BONN. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING GENERAL FRG/GDR PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS, THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON ONE OF THE TWO DAYS OF THE BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT. THIS LATTER TOPIC WAS LAST DISCUSSED ON NOVEMBER 29 (REFTEL).

6. COMMENT: THE SEEMING STALEMATE IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS IS BEGINNING TO HAVE A DEPRESSING EFFECT ON THE WEST GERMAN
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DELEGATION. THE PREPARATION OF BRIEFING PAPERS IS SAID TO BE AN EVER MORE ONEROUS TASK, SINCE THE GDR STANCE SEEMS PURE AND SIMPLY TO BE A STONEWALLING ONE. BAHR IS SAID ALSO TO BE DEJECTED BY THE COURSE OF EVENTS, AND ONLY GAUS, THE NEWCOMER TO THE TALKS, STILL HAS SOME OF HIS BOUNCE. THERE IS ALSO AN INCREASINGLY EVIDENT FEELING IN THE CHANCELLERY, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING LEVEL, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS, ARE SUCH THAT THE INNER-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP IS TAKING AN INCREASINGLY LOW PRIORITY IN THE

LIST OF THINGS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS OR NEEDS TO
DO. THIS FEELING HAS BEEN PASSED ALONG TO THE GDR
REPS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, APPARENTLY IN THE HOPE
THAT THIS WILL PROMOTE SOME FLEXIBILITY FROM THE EAST
GERMANS. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS WILL HAVE THE
DESIRED EFFECT: THE EAST GERMANS MAY IN FACT RUB THEIR
HANDS AND FEEL THEIR TACTICS ARE SUCCEEDING.
HILLENBRAND

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